

Dear Students,

I write to follow up on the note that President Bollinger sent this afternoon and reiterate his very important message: Despite the unimaginable circumstances that we all find ourselves living in, the Columbia community is strong and we will continue to work through this uncertainty together.

We have been working with the President's and Provost's offices and the Business School was granted an exemption from the 3-day suspension from classes that President Bollinger announced. Specifically:

- Classes **will resume on Monday, March 23**. Because of the planning of our dedicated faculty and administrative staff, we are prepared for online classroom instruction to be delivered as originally scheduled across all programs. In fact, this past week, over 40 EMBA classes were successfully rolled out in this new format.
- Classes will be graded pass/fail for this semester to recognize the complications that remote instruction in a now global classroom presents. This may be a point of frustration for you with the perception that it does not recognize your hard work, but please know that I expect and anticipate that we will maintain absolute academic rigor despite operating in a virtual environment. We will also work to address any issues that this may give rise to.
- University Commencement 2020 will be cancelled. Degrees will be conferred on May 20 in a yet to be decided format.

I am sure this last point brings the greatest disappointment. It does for me as well, especially since you are among my first graduating classes I have the honor of congratulating in my role as dean. Commencements and recognition ceremonies cap off your academic experience. They are an opportunity to celebrate your hard work and commitment with your fellow classmates, your professors, your administrative supporters and champions, and your family. The Business School is working on an alternate plan to come together as a community and celebrate your success while being mindful of your safety and wellbeing. Please stay tuned for more information on that front.

Finally, it goes without saying that we are living in extraordinary times, where the news is often difficult to digest and many uncertainties lay ahead. Spring break—normally a time for exploration or adventure—found many of us staying put. Nonetheless, I hope you found time for relaxation and reflection. I, personally, have found inspiration, strength, gratitude, and comfort in this incredible community of ours—our healthcare colleagues and medical researchers on the front lines—and you, whose leadership this world will need now more than ever. We will emerge from this stronger and wiser and I cannot think of a community better prepared than ours.

Thank you again for your perseverance and your collaborative spirit and I will continue to update you as events unfold.

Sincerely,

Costis